

# Juan De Austria

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## *Biography*

Juan de Austria was a Spanish military born in Regensburg, Germany in the year 1545 - Namur, The Netherlands, 1578). He was an illegitimate son of Charles the V, who served at the orders of King Philip II of Spain.

He obtained with 26 years old the supreme command of the fleet of the Holy League which was formed by Spain, Venice and the Papacy against the Turks (1570). Instead of following the advice of his counselors, he decided to fight directly to the Turks. In the battle of Lepanto (1571),



## *The Batle of Lepanto*

The Battle of Lepanto took place on 7 October 1571 when a fleet of the Holy Leagues, a coalition of southern Europe and Catholic maritime states, decisively defeated the main fleet of the Ottoman Empire. It was developed in the Gulf of Corinth. The victory of the Holy League prevented the Ottoman Empire expanding further along the European side of the Mediterranean. Lepanto was the last major naval battle in the Mediterranean fought entirely between galleys and has been assigned great symbolic importance by Catholic and other historians. Some historians argue that a Turkish victory could have led to Western Europe being overrun.

The Holy League was formed by:

- The republic of Venecia
- The Spanish Empire
- The Republic of Genoa
- The Papal States
- Grand Duchy of Tuscany
- Duchy of Savoy
- Duchy of Urbino
- Knights of Malta

While in the Islamic side there was only the Ottoman Turks. The Ottoman Turks had more soldiers, ships and sailors, while the Holy League had less sailors, ships, soldiers but more cannons.



Islamic side in The Battle of Lepanto



Juan of Austria in The Battle of Lepanto

### **Sources:**

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle\\_of\\_Lepanto](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Lepanto)

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